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United States  
81395-137  
Patents

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TC 2700 MAIL ROOM

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**IN RE APPLICATION**

Serial Number: 09/475,308  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING A  
PLURALITY OF PRE-DEFINED CODES INTO A  
SEARCH KEY AND FOR LOCATING A LONGEST  
MATCHING PRE-DEFINED CODE  
Filing Date: December 30, 1999  
Inventors: Delfin Y. Montuno and James Aweya  
Agent's ref: 81395-137

April 4, 2000

U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
United States

**VIA COURIER**

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendments be made to the above identified application as follows:

**AMENDMENT**

**Disclosure**

Without prejudice please amend the disclosure as below:

Page 3, lines 15 and 16, delete "of the possible bit combinations".

Page 4, lines 21 and 23, delete "possible".

Page 10, lines 22 and 23, delete "of the possible bit combinations".